

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for extracting desired data for metric analysis, the method comprising the steps of:

specifying desired data elements to be extracted from an operational database;  
automatically generating executable code from said specified data elements, the generated code being for extracting said specified data elements from said operational database;  
and

executing said executable code thereby extracting said specified data elements from said operational database and storing said extracted data in a staging database.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said step of specifying includes identifying attributes and processes related to said desired data elements.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said operational database is a relational database.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said staging database is a relational database.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 2 wherein identifying the data elements, attributes and processes is performed utilizing a graphical user interface.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein the step of identifying includes deriving rules for extracting said desired data elements from graphical representations and manually defined values of said attributes and processes related to said desired data elements.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of executing includes invoking a background process for extracting and storing said specified data elements.

Claim 8-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (new): A method for extracting desired data for metric analysis, the method comprising the steps of:  
specifying data elements to be extracted from an operational database including identifying attributes and processes related to said data elements;  
generating executable code from said data elements, the executable code being for extracting said data elements from said operational database; and  
executing said executable code thereby extracting said data elements from said operational database and.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17 further comprising storing said data elements that were extracted from said operational database in a staging database.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein said operational database is a relational database.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 18 wherein said staging database is a relational database.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein specifying said data elements and identifying said attributes and processes is performed utilizing a graphical user interface.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 21 wherein the step of identifying includes deriving rules for extracting said data elements from graphical representations and manually defined values of said attributes and processes related to said data elements.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of executing includes invoking a background process for extracting and storing said data elements.